

Please cancel the replacement paragraph starting at Page 2, line 16, and continuing to Page 3, line 1, in favor of the following twice amended paragraph:

E1
As far as we are aware at present the only disclosure of the use of carbon in a tobacco rod in a situation where reduction of sidestream smoke was aimed for is in US-A-5092353 (EP-A-378774). However the aim in that disclosure was to reduce sidestream smoke by the use of wrapping paper of very low permeability (< 10 CORESTA units). To compensate for the tendency this will cause for the cigarette to be self-extinguishing, pyrolyzed alpha-cellulose was present in the tobacco rod.

Please cancel the replacement paragraph starting at Page 3, line 9, in favor of the following twice-amended paragraph:

E2
The present invention, therefore, is contrasted with all of this prior art by providing in a tobacco rod an activated carbon for having an effect on the chemistry of smoke while not being limited to the use of low permeability papers, and specifically not to papers of < 10 CORESTA.

Please cancel the replacement paragraph starting at Page 3, line 15, and continuing to Page 4, line 1 in favor of the following twice-amended paragraph:

E³ Furthermore, the present invention provides the addition of activated carbon in specific particulate form in reconstituted tobacco sheet to the tobacco rod of the smoking article in such a way that greater mildness of the smoking article is perceived by the smoker in the mainstream smoke, and at the same time there is a reduction in sidestream smoke over a wide range of porosities of the wrapper of the article and in particular with porosities high enough that special precautions do not have to be taken to prevent self-extinction of the article.

Please cancel the replacement paragraph starting at Page 6, line 10 in favor of the following twice-amended paragraph:

E⁴ The cigarettes were 84 mm long, 7.9 mm diameter, unfiltered. The wrapping was an 80 CORESTA flax-based paper, with 2% potassium citrate burn enhancer.

Please cancel the replacement paragraph starting at Page 7, line 5 in favor of the following twice-amended paragraph:

E⁵ Cigarettes and controls were prepared using the same tobacco blend and reconstituted tobacco sheet as in Example 1, but using respectively papers of 25, 50, 80 and 180 CORESTA units porosity. Sidestream smoke from the inventive cigarettes and from the controls had significant reductions both in semi-volatile and in nicotine

E5
cont'd
content, as seen in Table 3. Increased carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide production is assumed to be due to the presence of the particulate carbon in the tobacco sheet.

Marked-up copies of these twice-amended paragraphs are enclosed.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims ~~9-11~~ and ~~27-30~~, without prejudice.

Please add new claims ~~31-47~~ as follows:

31. (New) A smoking article comprising:

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a tobacco rod, said rod comprising a blend of shredded tobacco and shredded reconstituted tobacco sheet, said reconstituted tobacco sheet containing activated carbon particles; and

a wrapper around said tobacco rod, said wrapper having a permeability of at least 20 CORESTA, said smoking article having reduced sidestream smoke and increased perceived mildness during smoking.

32. (New) An article according to Claim 31 in which the activated carbon particles are of vegetable origin.

33. (New) An article according to Claim 32 wherein the vegetable origin is coconut.

34. (New) An article according to Claim 31, wherein the carbon particles have a mean particle size of 37 μ m.

35. (New) An article according to Claim 31, wherein said shredded reconstituted tobacco sheet contains 30% activated carbon particles to reduce aldehyde content of mainstream smoke when the smoking article is smoked.

36. (New) An article according to Claim 31, wherein said wrapper has a permeability of 25 CORESTA.

37. (New) An article according to Claim 31, wherein said wrapper has a permeability of 50 CORESTA.

38. (New) An article according to Claim 31, wherein said wrapper has a permeability of 80 CORESTA.

39. (New) An article according to Claim 31, wherein said wrapper has a permeability of 180 CORESTA.

40. (New) A method of producing a smoking article comprising:

providing as a tobacco rod substance a blend of shredded tobacco and shredded reconstituted tobacco sheet containing activated carbon particles; and

placing about the tobacco rod substance a wrapper of a material having a permeability of at least 20 CORESTA, said smoking article having reduced sidestream smoke and increased perceived mildness during smoking.

41. (New) A method according to claim 40 wherein the step of placing of the wrapper about the tobacco rod substance includes the step of hand-rolling the smoking article.

42. (New) A method according to claim 40 wherein said step of providing a blend of shredded tobacco and shredded reconstituted tobacco sheet containing activated carbon particles includes the step of providing sufficient activated carbon particles so as to reduce the aldehyde content of mainstream smoke when the smoking article is smoked.

43. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein said step of providing a blend of shredded tobacco and shredded reconstituted tobacco sheet containing activated carbon particles includes the step of providing sufficient activated carbon particles so as to reduce the aldehyde content of mainstream smoke when the smoking article is smoked.

44. (New) A kit for use in hand-rolling a smoking article, said kit comprising:

a tobacco rod substance of shredded tobacco and shredded reconstituted

tobacco sheet containing activated carbon particles; and

a wrapper material having a permeability of at least 20 CORESTA, the hand-rolled smoking article having reduced sidestream smoke and increased perceived mildness during smoking.

45. (New) The kit of claim 44 wherein the shredded reconstituted tobacco sheet contains sufficient activated carbon particles to reduce the aldehyde content of mainstream smoke when the smoking article is smoked.

46. (New) The kit of claim 44 wherein the activated carbon particles are of vegetable origin.

47. (New) The kit of claim 45 wherein the activated carbon particles are of vegetable origin.

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action of October 8, 2002 in the above-identified U.S. patent application, applicant, through the undersigned attorney, hereby requests continued examination of the application under 37 CFR 1.114. A one month extension of time is requested, to extend the time for filing a response to February 8, 2003. The RCE fee is also being paid, both by the accompanying check No. 17720 in the amount